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How To Make A Memorable Scrapbook For Your Child...without Having A Masters Degree In Art!

By Jennifer Tarzian

When my son was only a few months old, I was fortunate enough to be invited to a scrapbooking party. I had no idea how much fun putting together a few pictures could be! Immediately, I was hooked. I had been taking pictures constantly since the day my baby was born, and now I finally had something to do with them all!

Even though I take most of my photos with a digital camera, I really enjoy putting the "real" pictures down on paper. It is almost "therapeutic" for me. After a long day, and my son is put to bed, this is my time to devote to his scrapbook - and it is fun.

I'm no master of the creative arts by any means. In fact, my pages are pretty simple. But I have learned a few tips along the way that have made my scrapbooking a success to me.

*Journal - The reason I enjoy putting pictures in scrapbooks is that it allows me to write down what was going on in the picture: where we were, what we were doing, what I was thinking at the time - all the things that I know I won't remember 20 years from now! I try to take notes on journal paper while the images are fresh in my mind. That way, when I'm ready to sit down and create a page, I can add the journal notes. Plus, I want this to be a gift to my son that he can look back on when he's older. The more notes I write in his book for him, the more special it will be.

*Include a range of topics - I try to make pages of neighbors, our home, and friends of the family in order to preserve the memories of people and places that may change over time. I never thought much about doing this until we moved out of town. But now I can put together a page with pictures from the house my son was born in, the neighbors we had when we lived there, and the friends that we visited in that town. Since my son won't remember these things, he will have the stories and pictures to enjoy.

*Add special keepsakes to the book - I've included pages from his favorite books (that he has ripped out!), his hospital bracelet from when he was born, cards he has received for special occasions, even his first knit cap! The great thing about scrapbooking is that it doesn't have to just be pictures! Your

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local arts and crafts store can offer many options to help you include odd-shaped items or things that are just too precious to put glue on. Items such as plastic sleeves and pocket folders can serve this function and are a great asset to your memory book.

And for those of you who only have a digital camera, or just prefer to do your scrapbooking on your computer, I recommend you read David D. Deprice's article, "Family Album in the Digital Age" at

<http://www.youngparentsmagazine.com/articles/Family-Album-In-The-Digital-Age.htm>

for more

information on "computerizing" your memory book.

Most importantly, make it fun! If your kids are old enough to help with the project, let them! This is a great activity that kids and parents alike can get enjoyment from. You will be preserving precious memories while giving your children the gift of your time. Best wishes and Happy Scrapbooking!

Jennifer Tarzian is proud to be a stay-at-home mom. For all your parenting resources or to sign up for her weekly newsletter, please go to

<http://www.youngparentsmagazine.com>

or visit

<http://creditcards.youngparentsmagazine.com>

for helpful guides on credit reports, as well as valuable

information on choosing the right credit card.

Scrapbooking For Generations

By Vera Raposo

Generation scrapbooking is a wonderful way for different generations of your family to bond and share your family history. Spend some time to get everyone in the family involved in creating scrapbooks. Not only will you share pictures and stories, it will be a wonderful bonding experience as well.

Scrapbook For Your Child

Start a scrapbook for your child and get him or her involved in creating the pages. You can create a new book each year together with your child. Include artwork, homework as well as current pictures of your child and friends. Ask your child to help in creating layouts, choosing embellishments and adding descriptive titles and text. Depending on your child's age, you may even want to let her do most of the

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scrapbooking and writing with a little assistance from your of course. You'll be surprised how much you will learn about your child's life outside of your home. The two of you will get to spend some quality time together and create a memento to remember it for years to come.

Scrapbook Your Family History

Record your family history in a scrapbook. Put your family's story on paper for future generations. Create a special generation scrapbook that tells the story of your own childhood, teenage years, or how you and your spouse met. When your children are grown, they will appreciate being able to get a glimpse of what your life was like back then. Keep adding to the scrapbook over the years and get everyone in the family involved in deciding what should be added. You will create a book that everyone in the family will cherish and pass on for years, maybe even generations to come.

Share Old Photo Albums

Go through old photo albums that have been in your family for decades. Spend some time with older family members to look through these albums. You will gain an appreciation for your family history and the life your family members lived long before you were born. You may also want to discuss options to preserve these old pictures.

If you would like to incorporate some of these pictures in your current scrapbooks, have copies made, or scan the pictures in your computer, edit them and then print. You can correct faded color and even some small tears and nicks with modern photo editing software. Plus you will have a digital version of the picture that will last long after the original photo deteriorates.

Grab that fabulous scrapbook that you bought months ago and saved for a special occasion and start generation scrapbooking today about yourself and your family. You will enjoy the process of creating that special book just as much as being able to share it with family members once it is finished.

Vera Raposo has been scrapbooking since her oldest child was 5. With tons of scrapbooking tips and ideas, Vera is now sharing some of her best scrapbooking ideas on her radio show at

<http://www.scrapperstalkradio.com>



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